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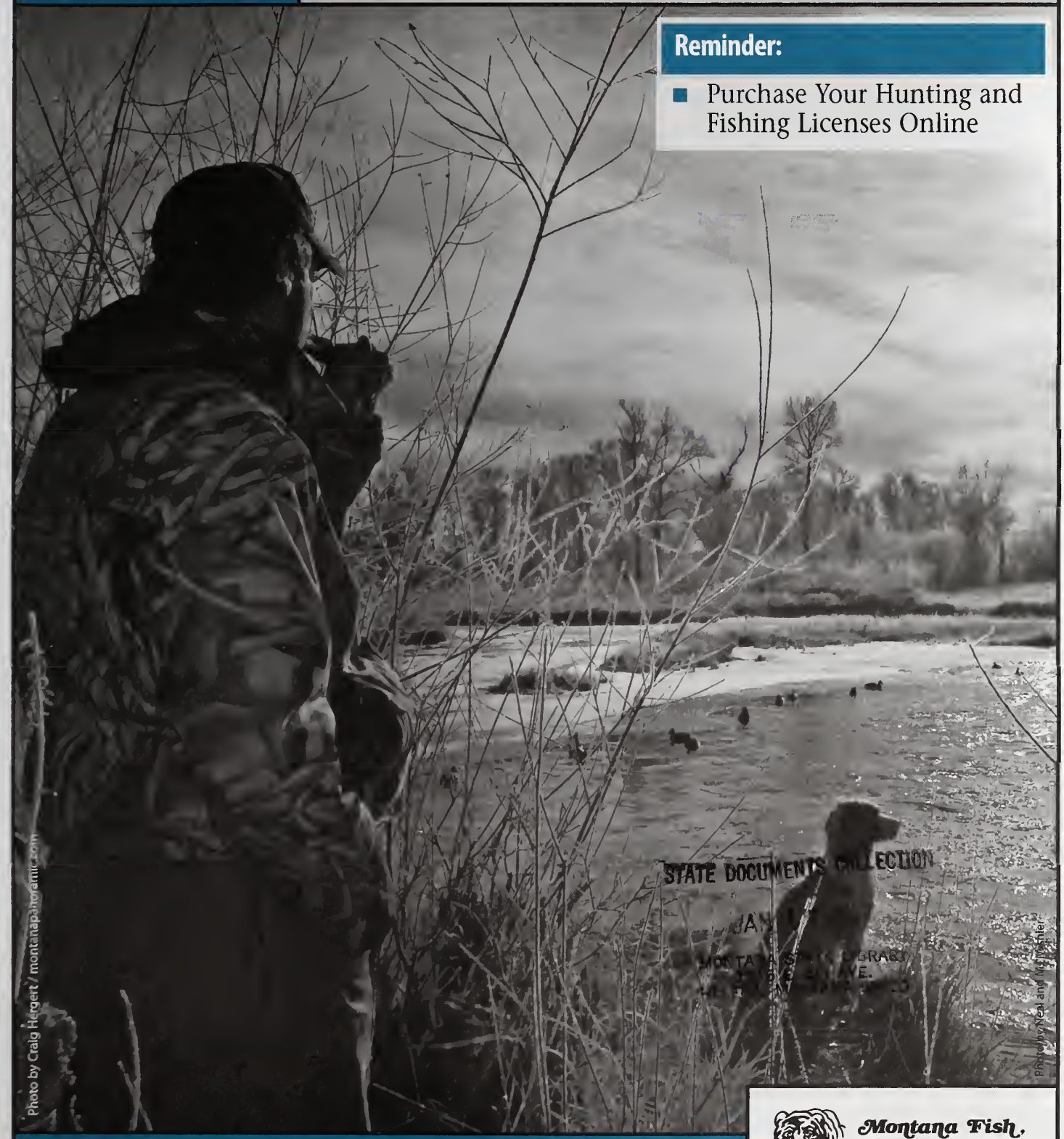
2006 MIGRATORY BIRDS

Montana Hunting Regulations



Reminder:

- Purchase Your Hunting and Fishing Licenses Online

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

Photo by Craig Hergert / montanaphotographic.com

Photo by Neal and Jill Hunter

Turn in Poachers: 1-800-TIP-MONT (847-6668)

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

These regulations were adopted under the authority granted to the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission per MCA, Section 87-1-301 and are valid March 1, 2006 through February 28, 2007. These regulations were adopted by the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission on August 31, 2006. M. Jeff Hagener, Director.

The following licenses, **except** the Federal Migratory Bird Stamp, are available at all Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices, FWP license providers throughout the state, and online at fwp.mt.gov or mt.gov. The license is valid March 1, 2006 through February 28, 2007.

Montana Migratory Bird Licensing Requirements

Waterfowl - (Duck, Geese, Swans)						Webless Migratory Game Birds (Doves, Cranes, Coot & Common Snipe)
Resident and Nonresident	Age	MT Migratory Bird License Required Resident: $6.50 Nonresident: $50	Federal Migratory Stamp Required Resident and Nonresident: $15	Conservation License Required Resident: $8 Nonresident: $10	Hunting Access Enhancement Fee Resident: $2 Nonresident: $10	
Resident	12 to 15	No	No	Yes	Yes	Conservation Only
Resident	16 to 61	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Conservation & MT Migratory Bird License
Resident	62+ or FWP Certified Disabled	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Conservation Only
Nonresident	12 to 15	No	No	Yes	Yes	Conservation Only
Nonresident	16+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Conservation & MT Migratory Bird License

For Your Information –

Mailing Lists – FWP regularly receives requests for mailing lists. This year, to better protect your privacy, when you purchase a conservation license you'll be asked if you want your name and address included on mailing lists that FWP will compile for vendors, businesses and others who seek this information. While FWP will not include your name and address if you so request, it is important for you to know that Montana law requires FWP to allow public access to department records. As a result, vendors, businesses and others who wish to compile their own mailing lists may do so. Your privacy is important to FWP and the State of Montana. To further protect your privacy, FWP will not allow access to your Social Security number, ALS number, phone number, age, date of birth, employer, height, weight, eye and hair color.

General Regulations –

- It is unlawful to interfere with or hinder the lawful taking of a migratory game bird.
- A hunter may purchase only one migratory bird license per year.
- Persons under 12 may not legally hunt migratory birds.
- Both resident and nonresident migratory game bird hunters must carry on their person the required license(s).
- A valid "Resident of Flathead Reservation Use Permit" with a valid Flathead Reservation bird stamp will be honored by the State wherever hunting for upland or migratory birds is lawful in Montana.
- Hunters may apply for a swan special permit online at fwp.mt.gov or mt.gov OR over the counter at any FWP regional or area office no later than September 8, 2006. Hunters also have the option of applying by submitting their name, address, phone number, and ALS number, along with a $5 nonrefundable drawing fee. All applications must be postmarked no later than September 8, 2006. A special permit application may be downloaded from the FWP website or may be homemade. Send to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Attn: Swan Special Permit Drawing, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701. Applicants must possess a current year conservation license to apply. Successful applicants will be required to purchase a Montana Migratory Bird license if necessary as specified in these regulations.
- Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (MBHIP) – All migratory bird hunters in Montana, as well as in all other states, are required to take part in a National Harvest Survey Program, termed the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (MBHIP). To comply with MBHIP, you must complete a survey including your name, address and date of birth before you can purchase your Montana Migratory Bird License. In addition, you will be asked to respond to several questions about your hunting experience during last year's season.

Baiting – Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.11 and 20.21(i). You cannot hunt waterfowl or any other migratory game bird by the aid of baiting or on or over any baited area where you know or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. Baiting is the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could lure or attract migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them. A baited area is any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds.

- **The 10-Day Rule:** A baited area remains off limits to hunting for 10 days after all salt, grain or other feed has been completely removed. Waterfowl will habitually still be attracted to the same area even after the bait is gone. The 10-day rule recognizes that removing bait does not remove the lure created and that waterfowl will still be attracted to the area.

You can hunt migratory game birds, including waterfowl, on, over or from:

- standing crops or flooded standing crops, including aquatic plants.
- standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation.
- flooded harvested croplands.
- lands or areas where grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural harvesting or normal agricultural post-harvest manipulation.
- lands or areas where top-sown seeds have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, or a planting for agricultural soil erosion control or post-mining land reclamation.
- a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation.
- a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, provided your use of such vegetation does not expose, deposit, distribute or scatter grain or other feed. You should be aware that seeds or grains from such vegetation could create a baited area.
- standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as the result of hunters entering or leaving the area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds. Hunters are cautioned that while conducting these activities, any intentional scattering of grains will create a baited area.

Check Stations – All hunters are required to stop as directed at all designated check stations on their way to and from hunting and fishing areas, even if they have no game or fish to be checked.

Hunter Education – If you were born after January 1, 1985, you are required to show proof of completing a Montana hunter safety and education course or an approved hunter safety course from any other state or province prior to applying for or purchasing a hunting license.

Hunting Hours – One-half hour before sunrise to sunset except on the Flathead Indian Reservation, where the hunting hours shall be sunrise to sunset. See official sunrise-sunset tables in these regulations.

Duck Identification – For help in identifying ducks, hunters will find links to three identification guides at the following internet web site: http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/birds/idguide/idguide.htm. In addition, most FWP Regional Offices will have copies of waterfowl identification guides available.

Whooping Cranes – Whooping cranes are protected by law. It is illegal to take or attempt to take this bird. If a whooping crane is sighted, please call 406-444-2612. For more information on distinguishing sandhill cranes and waterfowl from the protected, endangered whooping crane, you may go to the following web site: http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/issues/sandhillcrane/sandhillcranehunters.htm.

Hunter Access –

- **National Wildlife Refuges –** More restrictive regulations may apply to national wildlife refuges open to public hunting. For additional information on federal regulations, contact: Special Agent-in-Charge, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P. O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225 or telephone 303-236-4306.
- **Public Land –**
  - National Parks are closed to hunting.
  - National Wildlife Refuge lands are closed except those areas designated open to public hunting. For hunting opportunities on National Wildlife Refuges or Federal Waterfowl Production Areas, inquire at the local refuge office.
  - For hunting opportunities on federal lands such as U.S. Forest Service or U.S. Bureau of Land Management, inquire at the local federal office.
  - Access to public lands through private land requires permission of the private landowner, lessee, or their agent.
- **Private Land Access –** Montana law requires permission for all hunting on private land. Even if the land is not posted, hunters must have permission from the landowner, lessee, or their agent before hunting on private property. Landowners may grant permission face-to-face, over the phone, in writing, or by posting signs that explain the type of hunting allowed—game species or sex—and under what conditions. Visit FWP's website for the Interactive Hunt Planner or visit nris.mt.gov/gis for assistance with land ownership.
- **Railroad Access –** Railroads and railroad right-of-ways are private property and may not be hunted without permission, nor should they be used as access to other lands (private or public) without explicit permission from the railroad. Consult the individual railroad for details.
- **State School Trust Lands –** A $2 fee paid when you purchase your conservation license, provides hunters and anglers legal access to State School Trust Lands. Information regarding the rules, regulations, and restrictions governing these activities is available from FWP or contact DNRC at 406-444-2074.
- **State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA)** which provide big game winter range are closed to public entry from the day following the end of the general deer/elk season or December 1, whichever is later to May 15 each year, as posted.
  - Exception: Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA closes November 10. From November 11 through the remainder of hunting season that portion of Cottonwood Creek lying downstream from the bridge (at WMA headquarters) including the ditch and pond (DU pond) that are connected to the creek will remain open to hunting for ducks and geese only, as posted.
  - Exception: Kootenai Falls WMA is open year long; Porcupine (Gallatin), Dome Mountain, Bear Creek and Wall Creek WMAs open May 1.
  - The Canyon Ferry WMA access gate for Dikes 2 and 3 on Ray Creek Road will be opened at noon the day prior to opening of the Youth and General Waterfowl Seasons.
- **Stream Access –** Big game hunting between the ordinary high water marks of streams and rivers is illegal without landowner permission. Landowner permission must be obtained to hunt private lands adjacent to waterways.
- **Tribal Lands –**
  - Hunters hunting migratory birds on Indian Reservations should check Indian Reservation regulations because season dates, bag limits, licensing requirements, shooting hours, legal species and shot shell requirements may differ from state regulations.
  - The State of Montana and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have entered into a cooperative management agreement on the Flathead Reservation. Please check for migratory bird regulations specific to the Flathead Reservation. For information call FWP at 406-752-5501 or the Tribes at 406-675-2700.

Method of Taking –

- Migratory birds may be taken only with long, recurve or compound bow and arrow or shotgun not larger than ten gauge incapable of holding more than three shells fired from the shoulder.
- Migratory birds may not be taken from or by means, or aid of, or use of a sinkbox, aircraft, motor vehicle, motorboat, sailboat or motor-driven conveyance of any kind, except a motorboat or sailboat if you shut the motor off or furl the sail and the vessel is no longer in motion.
- Use of any electronic or phonographic waterfowl-calling device is illegal, as are live decoys.
- No person shall take migratory birds by driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in range of the hunter; by the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement). Hunter should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited 10 days after the removal of the bait, and it is not necessary for the hunter to know an area is baited to be in violation.
- It is unlawful for anyone to hunt or attempt to hunt any game animal or game bird:
  - on, from, or across any public highway or the shoulder, berm, or barrow pit right-of-way of any public highway (the entire width between the boundary lines of every publicly maintained way when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel, per MCA 61-1-202) in the state of Montana; or
  - by the aid or with the use of any set gun, jacklight, spotlight or other artificial light, trap, snare, salt lick, or bait per MCA 87-3-101. Baiting shall mean the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of corn, wheat, or other grain or food sources so as to constitute a lure or attraction.
- **Non-Toxic Shot –**
  - It is unlawful for anyone to use or possess a shotgun shell or ammunition loaded with or containing other than federally approved non-toxic shot, while hunting, taking or attempting to take ducks, geese, swans or coots.
  - Possession of "other than non-toxic shot" means in the gun, or in the pockets, or within reach while in the process of waterfowl hunting. Shot, other than non-toxic shot, left in a vehicle, while parked in the waterfowl hunting area, would not be considered "in possession" for the purpose of hunting.
  - The shot types that are approved as nontoxic for waterfowl hunting in the U.S. are the following. For additional information, go to http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/issues/nontoxic_shot/nontoxic.htm.

Approved shot type	Percent Composition
bismuth-tin	97% bismuth, 3% tin
steel	iron and carbon
tungsten-bronze	51.1% tungsten, 44.4% copper, 3.9% tin, 0.6% iron
tungsten-iron (2 types)	40% tungsten, 60% iron and 22% tungsten, 78% iron
tungsten-matrix	95.9% tungsten, 4.1% polymer
tungsten-nickel-iron	50% tungsten, 35% nickel, 15% iron
tungsten-polymer	95.5% tungsten, 4.5% Nylon 6 or 11
tungsten-tin-bismuth	49-71% tungsten, 29-51% tin; 0.5-6.5% bismuth
tungsten-tin-iron-nickel	65% tungsten, 21.8% tin, 10.4% iron, 2.8% nickel

Procedures to Follow Upon Harvesting Waterfowl –

Leave Wing or Head Attached – One fully feathered wing or head must remain attached to each bird (except doves) at all times while being transported from the place where taken to the personal abode of the possessor or a processing facility.

Wanton Waste – No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird pursuant to this part without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in his actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and either: (a) his automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) migratory game bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

Game Parts Suitable For Food –

- All birds that fall into the size category of a teal duck or smaller, only the breasts must be retained.
- All birds larger than a teal duck up to the size category of a mallard duck, the breasts and the thighs must be retained.
- All birds larger than mallard ducks, the breasts, thighs and wings must be retained.

Field Possession Limit – No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field, or while returning from the field to one's vehicle, hunting camp, home, etc.

Tagging – No person shall give, put or leave any migratory birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information: 1) the hunter's signature; 2) the hunter's address; 3) the total number of birds involved, by species; 4) the dates such birds were killed. Tagging is required if the birds are being transported by another person for the hunter, or if the birds have been left for cleaning, storage (including temporary storage), shipment, or taxidermy services.

Special Two-Day Youth Waterfowl Season

September 23-24, 2006 – Statewide

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is allowing two additional days to provide a special hunting opportunity to encourage youth participation in waterfowling. Legally licensed hunters age 12 through 15 may hunt ducks, mergansers, geese and coots statewide on these days. A nonhunting adult at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth hunter in the field. The bag limit, shooting hours, hunter safety requirements and all other regulations that apply to the regular waterfowl season shall apply to this special season.

Exception: Canyon Ferry WMA: Shooting hours will be one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to 12 noon September 23 and 24.

Pacific Flyway –

The Pacific Flyway includes Hill, Chouteau, Cascade, Meagher and Park counties and all counties lying west of these.

Ducks (Including Mergansers)

Bag limit: The daily bag limit is 7 ducks (including mergansers). The daily bag limit may contain no more than 2 female mallards, 1 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads and 3 scaup.

The possession limit may not exceed twice the daily bag limit of any species and sex.

Open Season:

- Sep 23 - Sep 24 – Only youth ages 12-15.
- Sep 30 - Jan 12 – Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.

Coots

Bag Limit: 25 daily and in possession.

Open Season:

- Sep 23 - Sep 24 – Only youth ages 12-15.
- Sep 30 - Jan 12 – Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.

Geese

Daily limit: 4 light geese (Snow, Blue, Ross') and 4 dark geese (all other geese). The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

Open Season:

- Sep 23 - Sep 24 – Only youth ages 12-15.
- Sep 30 - Jan 12 – Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.

Common (Wilson's) Snipe

Bag limit: 8 daily and 16 in possession.

Open Season:

- Sep 01 - Dec 16

Sandhill Cranes -

All Sandhill Crane hunting in the Pacific Flyway is only by special permit. Consult local FWP office for permit information.

Swan

Hunting in Cascade, Chouteau, Liberty, Hill, Toole and portions of Teton and Pondera Counties by special swan permit only. See Exception 1, Pacific Flyway (Swan). The remainder of the Pacific Flyway within Montana is closed to swan hunting.

Hunting only by special permit. Apply by Sept 8. Must apply in only one flyway.
Bag limit: 1 swan.

481-01:500 permits. **Swan hunters must have, as a means of retrieving swans, a watercraft, a dog capable of retrieving or chest-high waders along while hunting the dikes at Freezout**

- Oct 14 - Dec 01

- Applicants must possess a current year conservation license.
- Hunters may apply for a swan special permit online at fwp.mt.gov or mt.gov OR over the counter at any FWP regional or area office no later than September 8, 2006. Hunters also have the option of applying by submitting their name, address, phone number, and ALS number, along with a $5 nonrefundable drawing fee. All applications must be postmarked no later than September 8, 2006. A special permit application may be downloaded from the FWP website or may be homemade. Send to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Attn: Swan Special Permit Drawing, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701.

Hunting in Cascade, Chouteau, Liberty, Hill, Toole and portions of Teton and Pondera Counties by special swan permit only. See Exception 1, Pacific Flyway (Swan). The remainder of the Pacific Flyway within Montana is closed to swan hunting.

72-Hour reporting requirement - Federal regulations require that hunters shooting a swan in the Pacific Flyway portion of Montana must complete and return a Swan Bill Measurement Card within 72 hours of harvesting a swan.

Bill measurement cards may be returned to Montana FWP by: 1) deposit in regular US mail, or 2) by deposit in Swan Bill Measurement Card Deposit Boxes situated in numerous locations at Freezout WMA, or 3) by submitting card to any FWP office.

Pacific Flyway – Falconry

Bag Limit: For all permitted migratory birds, the bag limit is 2 daily and 6 in possession, singly or in the aggregate, during the regular hunting season and the extended falconry season.

Ducks and Coots

Open Season:

- Sep 30 - Jan 12

Geese

Open Season:

- Sep 30 - Jan 12

Exceptions – Pacific Flyway –

Swans

- Exception 1: Closed to hunting of all swans: those portions of Teton and Pondera counties lying west of US Highway 287 from Augusta to Choteau and US Highway 89 from Choteau to the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.

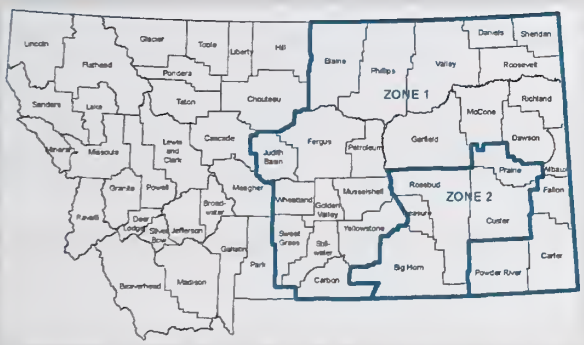
Ducks, Geese, Mergansers, Coots

- Exception 1, Canyon Ferry: September 30-October 6, 2006, and the special two-day youth waterfowl season September 23-24, 2006. Hunting hours for all ducks, geese, mergansers and coots shall be one-half hour before sunrise to noon daily; thereafter, October 7, 2006 until close of the season, regular hunting hours apply. See legal description below.

  Those portions of Broadwater, Lewis and Clark and Jefferson counties as follows: Beginning at Canyon Ferry Dam, then in a westerly and southerly direction along State Route 284 to US Highway 287, then east along said highway approximately one-quarter (1/4) mile to the Jefferson-Broadwater County line, then southerly along said line to the SW corner of T7N, R1W, then easterly along the south boundary of said township to its intersection with Indian Creek, then easterly down said creek to its intersection with US Highway 287, then southerly along said highway to its intersection with U. S. Highway 12 at Townsend, then easterly along said highway to the Broadwater-Meagher County line, then northerly along said line to the head of Magpie Gulch, then southerly down said gulch to State Route 284, then westerly along said highway to Canyon Ferry Dam, the point of beginning.

- Exception 2, Portion of Missoula County: Closed to hunting of all geese: See statewide closures for legal description.

Central Flyway –



Includes Blaine, Carbon, Fergus, Judith Basin, Stillwater, Sweet Grass and Wheatland counties and all counties lying east of these.

Zone 1: Includes Blaine, Carbon, Carter, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, McCone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux & Yellowstone counties.

Zone 2: Includes Big Horn County (where the Bighorn River is the county line between Yellowstone and Treasure counties, the Zone 1 and 2 boundary shall be northerly along State Hwy 47 to its junction with then north along the section lines on the east side of Sections 30 and 31 to the Yellowstone River), Custer, Prairie, Rosebud and Treasure counties.

Ducks (Including Mergansers)

Bag limit: The daily bag limit is 6 ducks (including mergansers). The daily bag limit may contain no more than 5 mallards of which no more than 2 may be females, 2 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 1 pintail, 1 canvasback, 1 hooded merganser and 2 scaup.

The possession limit may not exceed twice the daily bag limit of any species and sex.

Open Season:

- Sep 23 - Sep 24 – Only youth ages 12-15.
- Sep 30 - Nov 07
- Nov 08 - Jan 04 – Excluding Pintails & Canvasbacks.

Coots

Bag Limit: 15 daily and 30 in possession.

Open Season:

- Sep 23 - Sep 24 – Only youth ages 12-15.
- Sep 30 - Jan 04

Geese

Daily limit: 5 light geese (Snow, Blue, Ross') and 4 dark geese (all other geese).

The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

Open Season:

- Sep 23 - Sep 24 – Only youth ages 12-15.
- Sep 30 - Jan 12

Common (Wilson's) Snipe

Bag limit: 8 daily and 16 in possession.

Open Season:

- Sep 01 - Dec 16

Sandhill Cranes - Over-the-Counter Permit

Persons wishing to hunt Sandhill Cranes in the Central Flyway must obtain a free permit available from the Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge; Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge; Fish, Wildlife & Parks regional headquarters in Glasgow, Billings, Miles City; or the Fish, Wildlife & Parks office in Helena.

Exception 1: That area south and west of Interstate Highway 90 is closed to the hunting of Sandhill Cranes.

Exception 2: Hunting by special permit only in Wheatland county and that portion of Sweetgrass County north of I-90.

Bag limit: 3 daily and 6 in possession.

Open Season:

- Sep 23 - Nov 19

Sandhill Cranes - Special Drawing Permit

Hunting by permit only in Wheatland County and that portion of Sweetgrass County north of I-90. Hunters must apply in writing by August 1. Hunters may apply for only one permit area in the state and must specify area of choice.

Bag and possession limit: 1 Sandhill Crane.

586-01:40 permits. **Valid only in Wheatland county and that portion of Sweetgrass County north of I-90. Exception for Sandhill Cranes: That area south and west of Interstate Hwy 90 is CLOSED to the hunting of Sandhill Cranes.**

- Sep 09 - Sep 17

Hunters must apply in writing to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, POB 200701, Helena MT 59620, ATTN: Special Licensing by August 1. Applicants must submit in writing their name, signature, address, and Automated Licensing System (ALS) number along with a $5 nonrefundable drawing fee. Applicants must possess a current year conservation license to apply. Successful applicants will be required to purchase a Montana Migratory Bird license if necessary as specified on page 2 of these regulations.

Tundra Swan

Hunting only by special permit. Apply by Sept 8. Must apply in only one flyway.

Bag limit: 1 Tundra swan.

684-01:500 permits.

- Sep 30 - Jan 04

- Applicants must possess a current year conservation license.
- Hunters may apply for a swan special permit online at fwp.mt.gov or mt.gov OR over the counter at any FWP regional or area office no later than September 8, 2006. Hunters also have the option of applying by submitting their name, address, phone number, and ALS number, along with a $5 nonrefundable drawing fee. All applications must be postmarked no later than September 8, 2006. A special permit application may be downloaded from the FWP website or may be homemade. Send to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Attn: Swan Special Permit Drawing, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701.
- Surplus Central Flyway swan special permits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis after September 22. Surplus permits will be issued only at the Helena FWP headquarters and FWP regional headquarters in Billings, Miles City, and Glasgow. Hunters also have the option of requesting a surplus swan special permit through the mail by submitting their name, address, phone number, and ALS number to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701. A surplus swan special permit application may be downloaded from the FWP website or may be homemade.

Central Flyway – Falconry

Bag Limit: For all permitted migratory birds, the bag limit is 2 daily and 6 in possession, singly or in the aggregate, during the regular hunting season and the extended falconry season.

Ducks and Coots

Open Season:

- Sep 22 - Jan 05

Geese

Open Season:

- Sep 30 - Jan 12

Statewide Closures –

Portion of Missoula County: Closed to hunting of all geese: A tract of land comprised of portions of Sections 20, 21, 28, T13N, R18W, more particularly bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the Montana Power Dam at Milltown and extending in an easterly direction along the north shore of the impoundment to Interstate 90, then in a southeasterly direction along said interstate to the Old Milwaukee Railroad, then in a southwesterly direction across the reservoir where the old railroad bridge existed, then in a northwesterly direction along the railroad to the Montana Power Dam, the point of beginning.

Region 2, Warm Springs Pond No. 3 (Deer Lodge County): An area of land comprising portions of Sections 1, 2 11 and 12, T4N R10, portions of Sections 30 and 31, T5N, R9W, and portions of Sections 25 and 36, T5N, R10W, described as follows: Beginning at the junction of Interstate 90 and the Opportunity Road; then northerly on said road to the northerly base of the dike of Warm Springs Settling Pond No. 3; then northwesterly along the base of said dike to the area road passing through the Mill-Willow Bypass; then due west from junction of base of said dike and road to Interstate 90 (as posted), then southerly along said interstate to its junction with Opportunity Road, the point of beginning.

Region 3, Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir (Lewis & Clark County): The Bureau of Reclamation Regulating Reservoir located in Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16 and 17, T10N, R2W in the Helena Valley as posted. (This area will be open to hunting until the opening of the waterfowl season, then it will be closed to all hunting.)

Region 3, South Half of Lake Helena (Lewis & Clark County): Beginning at a point in the southwest part of Lake Helena to be marked by a red buoy, then in a southwesterly direction to the south shore, then south approximately ½ mile, then in an easterly direction 1-1/2 miles, then north ¼ mile, then east ¾ mile to the west bank of the BLM drain ditch D-7, then down the west bank of the drain ditch to the lake and out into the lake a distance of 400 yards to a point marked by a red buoy, then in a southwesterly direction across the lake to the point of beginning in parts of Sections 23, 24, 25 and 26, T11N, R3W, and in parts of Sections 19 and 30, T11N, R2W.

Region 3, Portion of the Manhattan Game Closure: Beginning at the intersection of the west bank of the West Gallatin River and Interstate 90, then running west along the south boundary of said Interstate to a point near the interstate which leads to the ranch entrance of the R. A Young Ranch, then southwesterly to the east bank of the Spring Creek irrigation canal, then southwesterly along the east bank of said canal to the closest point to the Perk's Canal, then (as posted) westerly to the Perk Canal, then southerly along the east bank of the Perk Canal to Camp Creek, then southerly along the southeast side of Camp Creek to a left fork known as Spring Creek, then southerly along the southeast bank of Spring Creek to the south line of Section 23, T1N, R3E, then east along the south line of Sections 23 and 24, T1N, R3E, and Section 19 T1N, R4E, to the West Gallatin River, then north along the west bank of said river to its intersection with Interstate 90, the point of beginning.

Region 4, Freezout Wildlife Management Area: (Teton County): SW1/4, Section 19, Sections 29 and 30, T22N, R3W, W1/2 Section 12, W1/2 of E1/2 Section 12, and that portion of Sections 13 and 24 within the posted boundary of the Freezout Wildlife Management Area, T22N, R4W. This area will be open to upland game bird hunting until the opening of the general waterfowl season. From the opening of the waterfowl season through November 19, 2006, no hunting, access or harassment of wildlife will be allowed except for the direct and immediate foot, boat or dog retrieval of downed game having fallen in the closed area. This area will then reopen for all hunting from November 20, 2006 to the end of the season.

Region 4, Missouri River (Cascade County): The Missouri River below the ordinary high water inclusive of all islands, backwaters, and sandbars, beginning at the confluence of Sand Coulee Creek and the Missouri River, Section 36, T20N, R3E, then downstream to Black Eagle Dam, Section 6, T20N, R4E.

Region 6, McLean Reservoir (Hill County): Approximately 2,560 acres located in Sections 16, 17 20, 21, T36N, R15E.

Region 6, Nelson Reservoir (Phillips County): All of those parts of Nelson Reservoir and within 300 yards of its shoreline within the following described sections: Sections 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35, T32N, R32E; and Sections 25 and 26, T32N, R31E; and Section 1, T31N, R31E; and Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6, T31N, R32E.

Region 6, Sands Lake (Hill County): SW ¼, Section 18, T32N, R16E.

Region 7, Treasure & Rosebud Counties: Beginning at the junction of the Bighorn and Yellowstone Rivers, then east down the Yellowstone River to the Rosebud-Custer County line, east of Hathaway, Montana (as posted). This closure shall be within the confines of the normal stream flow and shall include all islands, backwaters and sandbars.

Avian Influenza

National Early Detection Effort

- Avian influenza, or bird flu, is a common viral infection of wild birds, including waterfowl and shorebirds, that rarely is passed on to people.
- Several years ago, a virulent form of bird flu–Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)—emerged to sicken and kill domestic poultry in Asia, Africa and Europe.
- Montana wildlife officials are contributing to the national effort to detect the possible arrival of the virulent strain of bird flu that could be brought to North America via migrating waterfowl.
- Part of that effort includes getting help from hunters by collecting samples from harvested waterfowl through routine hunter game checks.
- HPAI is primarily a disease of birds, not humans. Should HPAI be detected anywhere in North America, it would not signal the start of a pandemic.

Common Sense Precautions

- Viruses like HPAI are shed from birds in fecal material and other body fluids; so avoid contact with these materials while plucking and cleaning birds.
- Do not harvest or handle wildlife that is obviously sick or found dead.
- Wear rubber gloves while cleaning game.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while cleaning game.
- Wash hands with soap and water or alcohol wipes after handling game.
- Wash tools and work surfaces used to clean game with soap and water, then disinfect with a 10 percent solution of chlorine bleach—one part chlorine to 10 parts water.
- Cook game meat thoroughly, to an internal temperature of at least 165 degrees Fahrenheit.

2006 Sunrise-Sunset Tables For Determining Hunting Hours –

These tables, including adjustments for daylight savings time, are the official sunrise-sunset tables adopted by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission for migratory bird hunting in Montana. Do not utilize from other sources.

Zones

ZONE 1 — INCLUDES: Flathead, Granite, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli and Sanders Counties.

	Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
Day	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
01	6:56	8:15	7:35	7:16	7:18	5:20	8:01	4:49	8:21	4:58
02	6:57	8:13	7:36	7:14	7:20	5:19	8:02	4:49	8:21	4:59
03	6:58	8:11	7:37	7:12	7:21	5:17	8:03	4:49	8:21	5:00
04	7:00	8:10	7:39	7:10	7:23	5:16	8:04	4:48	8:21	5:01
05	7:01	8:08	7:40	7:08	7:24	5:14	8:05	4:48	8:21	5:02
06	7:02	8:06	7:42	7:06	7:26	5:13	8:06	4:48	8:21	5:03
07	7:03	8:04	7:43	7:04	7:27	5:11	8:07	4:48	8:21	5:04
08	7:05	8:02	7:44	7:02	7:29	5:10	8:08	4:47	8:20	5:05
09	7:06	8:00	7:46	7:00	7:30	5:09	8:09	4:47	8:20	5:07
10	7:07	7:58	7:47	6:58	7:32	5:08	8:10	4:47	8:20	5:08
11	7:09	7:56	7:48	6:56	7:33	5:06	8:11	4:47	8:19	5:09
12	7:10	7:54	7:50	6:54	7:35	5:05	8:12	4:47	8:19	5:10
13	7:11	7:52	7:51	6:53	7:36	5:04	8:13	4:48	8:18	5:12
14	7:12	7:50	7:53	6:51	7:38	5:03	8:14	4:48	8:18	5:13
15	7:14	7:48	7:54	6:49	7:39	5:02	8:15	4:48	8:17	5:14
16	7:15	7:46	7:55	6:47	7:40	5:01	8:15	4:48	8:16	5:16
17	7:16	7:44	7:57	6:45	7:42	5:00	8:16	4:48	8:16	5:17
18	7:18	7:42	7:58	6:43	7:43	4:59	8:17	4:49	8:15	5:18
19	7:19	7:40	8:00	6:42	7:45	4:58	8:17	4:49	8:14	5:20
20	7:20	7:38	8:01	6:40	7:46	4:57	8:18	4:50	8:13	5:21
21	7:22	7:36	8:02	6:38	7:48	4:56	8:18	4:50	8:13	5:23
22	7:23	7:34	8:04	6:36	7:49	4:55	8:19	4:51	8:12	5:24
23	7:24	7:32	8:05	6:35	7:50	4:54	8:19	4:51	8:11	5:25
24	7:25	7:30	8:07	6:33	7:52	4:54	8:20	4:52	8:10	5:27
25	7:27	7:28	8:08	6:31	7:53	4:53	8:20	4:52	8:09	5:28
26	7:28	7:26	8:10	6:30	7:54	4:52	8:20	4:53	8:08	5:30
27	7:29	7:24	8:11	6:28	7:56	4:51	8:21	4:54	8:07	5:31
28	7:31	7:22	8:13	6:26	7:57	4:51	8:21	4:55	8:06	5:33
29	7:32	7:20	7:14	5:25	7:58	4:50	8:21	4:55	8:04	5:34
30	7:33	7:18	7:16	5:23	7:59	4:50	8:21	4:56	8:03	5:36
31			7:17	5:22			8:21	4:57	8:02	5:37

ZONE 2 — INCLUDES: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Cascade, Chouteau, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Glacier, Hill, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Liberty, Madison, Meagher, Park, Pondera, Powell, Silver Bow, Teton and Toole Counties.

	Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
Day	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
01	6:48	8:07	7:27	7:08	7:10	5:13	7:52	4:42	8:12	4:51
02	6:49	8:05	7:28	7:06	7:11	5:11	7:53	4:42	8:12	4:52
03	6:51	8:03	7:29	7:04	7:13	5:10	7:54	4:42	8:12	4:53
04	6:52	8:01	7:31	7:02	7:14	5:08	7:55	4:41	8:12	4:54
05	6:53	7:59	7:32	7:00	7:16	5:07	7:56	4:41	8:12	4:55
06	6:55	7:57	7:33	6:58	7:17	5:06	7:57	4:41	8:12	4:56
07	6:56	7:56	7:35	6:56	7:19	5:04	7:58	4:41	8:12	4:57
08	6:57	7:54	7:36	6:54	7:20	5:03	7:59	4:41	8:11	4:59
09	6:58	7:52	7:38	6:52	7:22	5:02	8:00	4:41	8:11	5:00
10	7:00	7:50	7:39	6:51	7:23	5:00	8:01	4:41	8:11	5:01
11	7:01	7:48	7:40	6:49	7:25	4:59	8:02	4:41	8:10	5:02
12	7:02	7:46	7:42	6:47	7:26	4:58	8:03	4:41	8:10	5:03
13	7:03	7:44	7:43	6:45	7:27	4:57	8:04	4:41	8:09	5:05
14	7:05	7:42	7:44	6:43	7:29	4:56	8:05	4:41	8:09	5:06
15	7:06	7:40	7:46	6:41	7:30	4:55	8:06	4:41	8:08	5:07
16	7:07	7:38	7:47	6:39	7:32	4:54	8:06	4:41	8:08	5:09
17	7:09	7:36	7:49	6:38	7:33	4:53	8:07	4:42	8:07	5:10
18	7:10	7:34	7:50	6:36	7:35	4:52	8:08	4:42	8:06	5:11
19	7:11	7:32	7:51	6:34	7:36	4:51	8:08	4:42	8:05	5:13
20	7:12	7:30	7:53	6:32	7:37	4:50	8:09	4:43	8:05	5:14
21	7:14	7:28	7:54	6:31	7:39	4:49	8:09	4:43	8:04	5:16
22	7:15	7:26	7:56	6:29	7:40	4:48	8:10	4:44	8:03	5:17
23	7:16	7:24	7:57	6:27	7:42	4:47	8:10	4:44	8:02	5:18
24	7:18	7:22	7:58	6:25	7:43	4:47	8:11	4:45	8:01	5:20
25	7:19	7:20	8:00	6:24	7:44	4:46	8:11	4:46	8:00	5:21
26	7:20	7:18	8:01	6:22	7:45	4:45	8:11	4:46	7:59	5:23
27	7:22	7:16	8:03	6:21	7:47	4:45	8:12	4:47	7:58	5:24
28	7:23	7:14	8:04	6:19	7:48	4:44	8:12	4:48	7:57	5:26
29	7:24	7:12	7:06	5:17	7:49	4:43	8:12	4:49	7:56	5:27
30	7:25	7:10	7:07	5:16	7:51	4:43	8:12	4:49	7:55	5:29
31			7:09	5:14			8:12	4:50	7:53	5:30

ZONE 3 — INCLUDES: Big Horn, Blaine, Carbon, Fergus, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Wheatland and Yellowstone Counties.

	Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
Day	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
01	6:37	7:57	7:17	6:57	7:01	5:01	7:43	4:30	8:04	4:39
02	6:38	7:55	7:18	6:55	7:02	5:00	7:44	4:30	8:04	4:40
03	6:40	7:53	7:19	6:53	7:04	4:58	7:45	4:30	8:04	4:41
04	6:41	7:52	7:21	6:51	7:05	4:57	7:47	4:29	8:04	4:42
05	6:42	7:50	7:22	6:49	7:07	4:56	7:48	4:29	8:03	4:43
06	6:44	7:48	7:23	6:47	7:08	4:54	7:49	4:29	8:03	4:44
07	6:45	7:46	7:25	6:45	7:10	4:53	7:50	4:29	8:03	4:45
08	6:46	7:44	7:26	6:44	7:11	4:51	7:51	4:28	8:03	4:46
09	6:48	7:42	7:27	6:42	7:12	4:50	7:52	4:28	8:02	4:48
10	6:49	7:40	7:29	6:40	7:14	4:49	7:53	4:28	8:02	4:49
11	6:50	7:38	7:30	6:38	7:15	4:48	7:54	4:28	8:02	4:50
12	6:51	7:36	7:32	6:36	7:17	4:46	7:55	4:28	8:01	4:51
13	6:53	7:34	7:33	6:34	7:18	4:45	7:55	4:28	8:01	4:53
14	6:54	7:32	7:34	6:32	7:20	4:44	7:56	4:29	8:00	4:54
15	6:55	7:30	7:36	6:30	7:21	4:43	7:57	4:29	7:59	4:55
16	6:57	7:27	7:37	6:28	7:23	4:42	7:58	4:29	7:59	4:57
17	6:58	7:25	7:39	6:27	7:24	4:41	7:59	4:29	7:58	4:58
18	6:59	7:23	7:40	6:25	7:26	4:40	7:59	4:30	7:57	4:59
19	7:01	7:21	7:42	6:23	7:27	4:39	8:00	4:30	7:57	5:01
20	7:02	7:19	7:43	6:21	7:28	4:38	8:00	4:30	7:56	5:02
21	7:03	7:17	7:44	6:19	7:30	4:37	8:01	4:31	7:55	5:04
22	7:05	7:15	7:46	6:18	7:31	4:36	8:01	4:31	7:54	5:05
23	7:06	7:13	7:47	6:16	7:33	4:35	8:02	4:32	7:53	5:07
24	7:07	7:11	7:49	6:14	7:34	4:35	8:02	4:33	7:52	5:08
25	7:09	7:09	7:50	6:13	7:35	4:34	8:03	4:33	7:51	5:09
26	7:10	7:07	7:52	6:11	7:37	4:33	8:03	4:34	7:50	5:11
27	7:11	7:05	7:53	6:09	7:38	4:32	8:03	4:35	7:49	5:12
28	7:13	7:03	7:55	6:08	7:39	4:32	8:03	4:35	7:48	5:14
29	7:14	7:01	6:56	5:06	7:41	4:31	8:04	4:36	7:47	5:16
30	7:15	6:59	6:58	5:04	7:42	4:31	8:04	4:37	7:46	5:17
31			6:59	5:03			8:04	4:38	7:44	5:19

ZONE 4 — INCLUDES: Carter, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Treasure, Valley and Wibaux Counties.

	Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
Day	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
01	6:24	7:42	7:02	6:43	6:45	4:48	7:26	4:18	7:47	4:27
02	6:25	7:40	7:03	6:41	6:46	4:47	7:27	4:18	7:47	4:28
03	6:26	7:38	7:05	6:39	6:48	4:46	7:29	4:18	7:47	4:29
04	6:27	7:36	7:06	6:37	6:49	4:44	7:30	4:17	7:47	4:30
05	6:29	7:35	7:07	6:35	6:51	4:43	7:31	4:17	7:47	4:31
06	6:30	7:33	7:09	6:34	6:52	4:41	7:32	4:17	7:46	4:32
07	6:31	7:31	7:10	6:32	6:54	4:40	7:33	4:17	7:46	4:33
08	6:32	7:29	7:11	6:30	6:55	4:39	7:34	4:17	7:46	4:34
09	6:34	7:27	7:13	6:28	6:56	4:37	7:35	4:16	7:46	4:36
10	6:35	7:25	7:14	6:26	6:58	4:36	7:36	4:16	7:45	4:37
11	6:36	7:23	7:15	6:24	6:59	4:35	7:37	4:16	7:45	4:38
12	6:38	7:21	7:17	6:22	7:01	4:34	7:38	4:16	7:44	4:39
13	6:39	7:19	7:18	6:20	7:02	4:33	7:39	4:17	7:44	4:41
14	6:40	7:17	7:19	6:19	7:04	4:32	7:39	4:17	7:43	4:42
15	6:41	7:15	7:21	6:17	7:05	4:30	7:40	4:17	7:43	4:43
16	6:43	7:13	7:22	6:15	7:06	4:29	7:41	4:17	7:42	4:44
17	6:44	7:11	7:23	6:13	7:08	4:28	7:42	4:17	7:42	4:46
18	6:45	7:09	7:25	6:11	7:09	4:27	7:42	4:18	7:41	4:47
19	6:46	7:07	7:26	6:10	7:11	4:26	7:43	4:18	7:40	4:49
20	6:48	7:05	7:28	6:08	7:12	4:26	7:43	4:19	7:39	4:50
21	6:49	7:03	7:29	6:06	7:13	4:25	7:44	4:19	7:38	4:51
22	6:50	7:01	7:31	6:04	7:15	4:24	7:44	4:20	7:38	4:53
23	6:52	6:59	7:32	6:03	7:16	4:23	7:45	4:20	7:37	4:54
24	6:53	6:57	7:33	6:01	7:17	4:22	7:45	4:21	7:36	4:56
25	6:54	6:55	7:35	5:59	7:19	4:22	7:46	4:21	7:35	4:57
26	6:55	6:53	7:36	5:58	7:20	4:21	7:46	4:22	7:34	4:59
27	6:57	6:51	7:38	5:56	7:21	4:20	7:46	4:23	7:33	5:00
28	6:58	6:49	7:39	5:55	7:23	4:20	7:47	4:24	7:32	5:01
29	6:59	6:47	6:41	4:53	7:24	4:19	7:47	4:24	7:31	5:03
30	7:01	6:45	6:42	4:52	7:25	4:19	7:47	4:25	7:29	5:04
31			6:43	4:50			7:47	4:26	7:28	5:06

Contacts –

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks State Headquarters

1420 East 6th Avenue, PO Box 200701,
Helena, MT 59620-0701 ..... **406-444-2535**

Hunter Education **406-444-3188**
Wildlife Division **406-444-2612**
Enforcement Division **406-444-2452**
Parks Division (Montana State Parks) **406-444-3750**
Deer, elk, antelope, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and all special drawings **406-444-2950**
Resident and nonresident licensing for fishing, upland game birds, migratory birds, black bear, and mountain lion **406-444-2535**
Nonresident mailing list for deer and elk big game combination licenses and regulations **406-444-2950**
Telephone Device for the Deaf **406-444-1200**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Regional Headquarters

REGION 1
490 N Meridian Rd
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501

REGION 2
3201 Spurgin Rd
Missoula, MT 59804
(406) 542-5500

REGION 3
1400 South 19th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718-5496
(406) 994-4042

HELENA Area Res Office (HARO)
930 Custer Ave West
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 495-3260

BUTTE Area Res Office (BARO)
1820 Meadowlark Ln
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 494-1953

REGION 4
4600 Giant Springs Rd
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 454-5840

LEWISTOWN Area Res Office (LARO)
215 W Aztec Dr
PO Box 938
Lewistown, MT 59457
(406) 538-4658

REGION 5
2300 Lake Elmo Dr
Billings, MT 59105
(406) 247-2940

REGION 6
54078 US Hwy 2 West
Glasgow, MT 59230
(406) 228-3700

HAVRE Area Res Office (HvARO)
2165 Hwy 2 East
Havre, MT 59501
(406) 265-6177

REGION 7
Industrial Site West
PO Box 1630
Miles City, MT 59301
(406) 234-0900

Contacts Outside Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Montana State Agencies
Agriculture
406-444-3144
Guides & Outfitters
406-841-2372
Livestock
406-444-2976
State Lands
406-444-2074
Tourism
406-841-2870

Federal Agencies
US Department of Interior
202-208-3100
US Fish & Wildlife Service
406-449-5225

Land Maps
Bureau of Land Management
406-896-5000
Topographical (USGS)
888-275-8747

Tribal Lands
Blackfeet Reservation
406-338-7276
Crow Reservation
406-638-2601
Flathead Reservation
406-675-2700
Fort Belknap
406-353-2205
Fort Peck Reservation
406-768-5305
Northern Cheyenne Reservation
406-477-8844
Rocky Boy Reservation
406-395-4207

Please report the band number, location and date shot for any banded migratory game bird that you harvest to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at 1-800-327-BAND

If a Whooping Crane is sighted, please call 406-444-2612

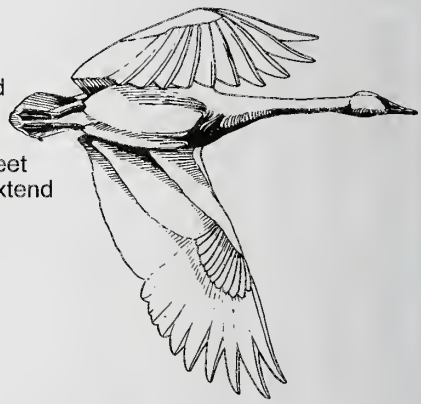
Whooping Cranes

- White with black wingtips
- Juveniles have a mixture of white and brown body feathers, with black wingtips
- Necks long, extended straight forward in flight
- Wingspan: 7 feet
- Legs extend beyond tail in flight
- Slow wingbeat
- Flocks of 2 to 7, sometimes

Sandhill Cranes

- Gray, with dark wingtips
- Neck long, extended straight forward in flight
- Wingspan: 5 feet
- Legs extend beyond tail in flight
- Slow wingbeat

Swans



- All white
- Neck long, extended straight forward in flight
- Wingspan: over 6 feet
- Short legs, do not extend beyond tail in flight
- Flocks of 2 to 10

Snow Geese

- White with black wingtips
- Wingspan: 3 to 4 feet
- Short legs
- Rapid wingbeat
- Flocks of 20 to hundreds